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Publications Review Board

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(U) PDB Allowable Information

Posted on April 13, 2010 by

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Allowable Information Re President's Daily Brief

(based on DI IRO Declaration in *Berman v. CIA* Case, 2005)

- PDB is a unique intelligence document specifically prepared for the President and his most senior advisors
- PDB provides the most important current intelligence on critical issues relating to national defense and foreign policy
- The first incarnation of the PDB came during the Kennedy Administration and was identified as the President's Intelligence Checklist (PICL) and was designed specifically for the President and top advisors
- During Johnson Administration, the PICL became the PDB and the format, content and presentation changed
- The PDB continues to be revised to accommodate the needs of the sitting President and top advisors
- Typically consists of a few pages of the immediate intelligence that the CIA determines is critical for the President to know
- Leadership from various parts of the CIA are involved in making decisions about content
- Throughout its history, it is common for the President to ask follow-up questions in response to information presented in the PDB
- The PDB has become an ongoing dialogue between the President and the CIA

The accredited security level of this system is: ~~TOP SECRET//SI~~

- undisseminated raw operational information, sometimes including the true names of sources or cryptonyms;
 - sensitive operational information intelligence added by the NCS after the DI has written or edited the material;
 - information restricted at the very highest levels of human and technical source intelligence gathering;
 - information from covert technical operations; and
 - information from specifically developed or acquired CIA-only methods
- The PDB fuses all of the available intelligence
 - The PDB presents a unique window of insight into the nation's critical intelligence priorities, collection platforms, and turn-around time for the intelligence process.
 - The PDB shows what the IC is targeting and what the decision-makers know or do not know and when they know it
 - It represents the most highly selective compendium of the most important intelligence available to the U.S. IC
 - Information contained within the PDB that seems innocuous on its face can provide pieces necessary to complete a mosaic and expose targeting strategies, gaps in intelligence capabilities, or more specifically reveal a source or intelligence capability
 - The PDB itself is an intelligence method: reflecting the capabilities, accomplishments, and deficiencies of the IC, and decisions and judgments as to what topics are most important to have the attention of the President

Related Content

- (U//~~FOUO~~) (U//~~FOUO~~) Classification Guidance for CIA High Value Detainee Information
- (U) Glomar Information
- (U) PRB Policy and Procedures Regarding Directorate Notification of PRB Activities and Decisions
- (U) CIA still no.1 contributor to PDB

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